

**BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**YOUTH OPPORTUNITY BOSTON**  
2001-2002 Grant Amount: **\$6 Million**

**Mayor's Office of  
Jobs & Community Development**  
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**Mission and Vision**

The mission of the Youth Opportunity Initiative is to empower and motivate young people so that they may gain the education, employment and career advancement necessary to be successful in the workforce, community and in their lives.

**Program Overview**

YO! Boston was developed from the original Kulick demonstration grant, with current sites located in Roxbury and South Boston. Service focus is on youth who are out of school or at risk of dropping out, including those who are homeless, substance-dependent and /or court involved.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES**

- Developed four phase Transitional Employment Services Program, which supports youth moving from team-based community service learning through subsidized employment to two phases of market-based employment.
- Established School-Within-School using building trades and computer curricula at Dorchester High, with union involvement in design and operation and continuation funding committed by Boston School Department
- Effective employer engagement strategies utilizing experienced Career Specialists, work-based learning plans developed under STW and a sectoral development focus.
- Strong governance link to the Youth Council, which oversees enrollment, performance outcomes and procurement.

**KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- **Boston Police Department:** provides operations oversight, and coordination with youth policing initiatives
- **Building Trades Apprenticeship Directors Association:** curriculum development and work experience for School-within-School
- **U.S. Attorney's Boston Jobs Program:** venue for coordinating with police, probation and other criminal justice agencies
- **Alternative Education Alliance:** network of alternative education providers with varied program design, location and clientele (e.g., pregnant teen) that award Boston diplomas as well as GEDs
- **Boston Public Schools:** resources for alternative education programs and school reform leadership
- Skilled and committed outreach and youth advocacy staff that have high credibility with youth and with referral and service agencies.

